The acquisition of the Dutch quantitative pronoun ER

*The role of background language(s)*

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The acquisition of the Dutch quantitative pronoun ER: the role of background language(s)

Sanne Berends  Petra Sleeman  Aafke Hulk  Jeannette Schaeffer

Introduction
This study looks at transfer from L1 French and L1 English to the L2 Dutch. We specifically look at the ability to judge and imitate morphosyntactic and semantic structures with the quantitative pronoun ER.

Syntax
Based on Full Transfer/Full Access, Predictions

Semantics

Dutch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>presence vs absence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ik leer ER drie</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ik leer ER drie</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semantics

indefiniteness vs definiteness

Dutch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Ik leer ER enkele</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ik leer ER sommige</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dutch and French have a quantitative pronoun that accompanies a complex NP modified by a cardinal numeral or weak quantifier. The licensing conditions of these pronouns (Dutch: ER, French: EN) differ. Dutch.

This study looks at the syntactic and semantic structures with the quantitative pronoun ER. Dutch.

Comparison results French-Dutch and English-Dutch

Comparison results French-English

Discussion
Our predictions were based on Dutch being the L2 for both groups. However, all of the L1 French participants speak English too, and since all participants live in The Netherlands they come into contact with English on a regular basis. This leads to the idea that Dutch is in fact their L3.

Comparison results French-Dutch and English-Dutch

Comparison results French-English

References and Acknowledgements


We would like to thank Tom Rooper and Jason Rothman for their useful comments and discussion on this research.